AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The claims have not been amended and read as follows:

1 - 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A data communication apparatus comprising:

a connector, arranged to connect to a host computer;

a receiver, arranged to receive a command from the host computer through said connector;

an analysis unit, arranged to analyze the command received by said receiver;

a transmitter, arranged to transmit to the host computer a response in accordance with an analysis result of said analysis unit; and

a controller, arranged to add information unrelated to the command analyzed by said analysis unit to the response transmitted to the host computer, and to cause said transmitter to transmit the response with the added information concurrently,

wherein said controller adds the information unrelated to the command to prompt the host computer to issue an additional command.

21. (Previously Presented) A data communication apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the added information is information indicating that a change in a status of said data communication apparatus has occurred.

22. (Previously Presented) A data communication apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein, when a complete response to the command received by said receiver cannot be transmitted, said controller adds to the response information indicating that the response is to be continued, and causes said transmitter to transmit a remaining portion of the response on another occasion.

23. (Previously Presented) A data communication apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising a storage unit, arranged to store status information indicating a status of said data communication apparatus, wherein said transmitter transmits the status information stored in said storage unit when said receiver receives a command requesting the status of said data communication apparatus.

24. (Previously Presented) A data communication apparatus according to Claim 23, further comprising a reader, a printer, and a facsimile communication unit, wherein said storage unit stores information indicating a status of said reader, said printer, and said facsimile communication unit.

25. (Previously Presented) A communication method for use in a data communication apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:
    connecting to a host computer;
    receiving a command from the host computer through a connection formed in said connecting step;
    analyzing the received command;

transmitting to the host computer a response in accordance with an analysis result obtained in said analyzing step; and

adding information unrelated to the command analyzed in said analyzing step to the response transmitted to the host computer, and transmitting the response with the added information concurrently,

wherein the information unrelated to the command is added to prompt the host computer to issue an additional command.

26. (Previously Presented) A storage medium storing a computer-readable program for implementing a communication method in a data communication apparatus, the program comprising:

program code for a connection step of connecting the data communication apparatus to a host computer;

program code for a reception step of receiving a command from the host computer through a connection formed in the connection step;

program code for an analysis step of analyzing the received command;

program code for a transmission step of transmitting to the host computer a response in accordance with an analysis result; and

program code for an information addition step of adding information unrelated to the command analyzed in the analysis step to the response transmitted to the host computer and causing the response with the added information to be transmitted concurrently,

wherein the information unrelated to the command is added to the response to prompt the host computer to issue an additional command.